

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1716

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 2166

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, AC

SUBJECT: ANTIGUA BASE TALKS AND VISIT OF PREMIER BIRD

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE ANTIGUAN
PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE THAT
READS AS FOLLOWS:

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"I AM DIRECTED BY THE HONOURABLE PRMIER TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER DATED OCTOBER 1, 1976 ADVISING
THAT THE US GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO RETAIN BOTH THE US
NAVAL FACILITY AND THE US AIR FORCE EASTERN TEST
RANGE SITE ON ANTIGUA BEYOND THE END OF 1977, AND
OFFICIALS OF THE US GOVERNMENT ARE PREPARED TO MEET
WITH OFFICIALS OF THE ANTIGUA GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THIS
SUBJECT.

" I AM PLEASED TO ADVISE THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS DELEGATED EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY TO
THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA TO NEGOTIATE THE AGREEMENT.

" I WRITE TO CONFIRM MY RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
REQUESTING THAT INITIAL TALKS BE HELD IN WASHINGTON FROM
13TH-15 DECEMBER, 1976, ON THE TERMS OF AN AGREEMENT WITH
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING
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UNITED STATES DEFENCE AREAS IN ANTIGUA.

"THE PREMIER HOPES THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL FIND
IT CONVENIENT TO ATTEND.

"THE DELEGATION HEADED BY THE PREMIER WILL INCLUDE
ERIC CHALLENGER, PERMANENT SECRETARY, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
DEFENCE AND DR. LIONEL THOMAS, COMMISSIONER, EASTERN CARIBBEAN
COMMISSION, CANADA. I WILL GIVE YOU THE FULL PARTY, FLIGHT
NO. AND ETA AS SOON AS I KNOW THAT THE DATES FOR THE TALKS
ARE ACCEPTABLE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.

"ALTHOUGH THE PREMIER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON, HE IS
NOT EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS FROM THE BEGINNING.
THE TWO OFFICIALS MENTIONED ABOVE, WILL START THE DISCUSSIONS.

"THE PREMIER IS PLANNING TO VISIT PUERTO RICO AND
FLORIDA BEFORE COMING TO WASHINGTON. HE THEREFORE HOPES THAT
THE DATES FOR THE TALKS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE SO THAT THERE WILL
BE NO CHANGE IN HIS PROPOSED ITINERARY. YOURS SINCERELY,
(E.&K. CHALLENGER)".
BRITTON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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